



MEDICAL MINUTE

Vol. 2, No. 3

Serving the members of Tripler Army Medical Center and Pacific Regional Medical Command

March 2001

TAMC soldiers receive Soldier's Medal

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan
Editor

Two Tripler Army Medical Center soldiers were presented the Soldier's Medal, the highest peacetime award for heroism, during a ceremony March 5 at the hospital.

Sgt. Peter Amstutz and Spc. De' Angelo Allen, emergency medical technicians assigned to Schofield Barracks' Acute Care Clinic, were nominated for the award after completing a daring rescue and providing life-saving assistance to six people who were involved in a motor vehicle accident last July.

The two off-duty medics along with Amstutz's wife, Yvonne, were driving home on Kamehameha Highway at about

11:30 p.m. July 2 when they came across one of the worst car accidents the trio had ever seen.

"It was dark. As we were coming around the corner, we saw a car on the side of the road on fire. Then there was another car sitting in the middle of the road smashed up, just mangled," said Sgt. Amstutz, who estimated that the accident must have happened minutes before their arrival.

After pulling over, he and Allen jumped out of the car and ran over to the closest vehicle where injured motorists lay in shock. The two immediately began trying to move the injured a safe distance from the burning vehicle and the closer vehicle, which was also smoking. Like a chain, Sgt. Amstutz picked up each of three children

and handed them over to Allen who in turn carried them to the Amstutz's vehicle where Yvonne, seven months pregnant at the time, began evaluating their injuries and doing what she could to treat them.

"It was very scary because we had no medical supplies so I tried to do the best with what we had," she said.

After bringing both parents of the children to the triage site, Sgt. Amstutz glanced over at the burning vehicle and noticed the faint silhouette of a person sitting in the driver's seat.

"We didn't think anyone was in the vehicle. When we got closer, we could see the flames rolling around him, and he

See **Medal**, page 5



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Beret wear

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Burton, Pacific Regional Medical Command's top enlisted soldier, holds up what will soon become the Army's standard head gear as two soldiers prepare to brief NCOs on the beret's proper wear during the PRMC's NCO Conference Feb. 20.

During the three-day conference, NCOs were briefed on a variety of topics and listened to numerous guest speakers. Retired Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Allan J. Kellogg, a Medal of Honor recipient, and Army Nurse Corps Chief Brig. Gen. William Bester were among the speakers.

Doctors treat cancer with medical isotopes

Margaret Tippy
TAMC Public Affairs Officer

Tripler Army Medical Center staff recently treated a 17-year old patient suffering from cancer with medical isotopes and dramatically improved his quality of life in the short term.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Braden Shoupe, chief of Tripler's Hematology & Oncology Service, Department of Pediatrics, was the patient's physician.

The young man was suffering from a unique soft-tissue sarcoma that was undiagnosed when he first came to Tripler. His cancer began in a back muscle and it had already spread to his lungs and brain. Only 14 cases of this type of cancer are diagnosed in the pediatric population in the United States a year.

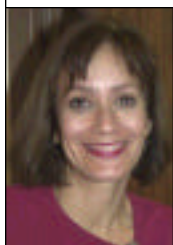
"This is an extremely rare form of cancer which usually presents in the arm or leg of a patient and is diagnosed before it can metastasize," Shoupe said. "Unfortunately, it is very refractive to standard therapies and when it has metastasized is usually terminal.

"Medical isotopes are a radioactive substance, which can be administered to an individual for either a diagnostic or therapeutic effect," said Capt. Robert Durkin, chief of Nuclear Pharmacy, Department of Radiology at Tripler. Shoupe ordered a nuclear medicine study or diagnostic scan to assist in identifying the cancer.

See **ISOTOPES**, page 3

FEEDBACK

A place to voice your opinion
March is Women's History Month.
What woman's accomplishments are
most important to you and why?



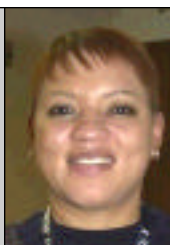
Liz Daley, Red Cross Office — "Clara Barton because she was the founder of the American Red Cross, and March is National ARC Volunteer Recognition Month."

Staff Sgt. Teresa Stringer, Office of the Center Judge Advocate — "Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks are my two heroes for their outstanding bravery, determination and courage to complete their mission."



Master Sgt. Rene Kinsey, Nutrition Care Division — "Abigail Adams for her contributions to secure a woman's right to vote."

Wanda Gadsden, Clinical Support Division — "Hillary Clinton and Jackie Jackson for maintaining their dignity and being the strong women they are beside such prominent leaders."



Mariale L. Valerio, TAMC Community Library — "Mother Theresa because she influenced the lives of many — from unpopular to prestigious personalities."

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Tripler has numerous VIPS

Maj. Gen. Nancy R. Adams
PRMC/TAMC Commanding General

Aloha to all! We at Tripler continue to demonstrate our first-class efforts accomplishing so many missions on a day-to-day basis. As we enter the spring months here in beautiful Hawaii, I have been thinking about Tripler's experience with VIPs in a variety of ways.

We often have VIPs — as in **Very Important People** — visit Tripler to see the magnificent job you do as staff and learn about our important missions. In the past few weeks, we have hosted the Navy Surgeon General Vice Admiral Nelson; and groups of delegates visiting from Vietnam and Japan. It is always a pleasure to tour with these groups and show off our outstanding accomplishments, but then I started thinking about other VIPs.

To me, and I hope to you, the VIPs that are most important are those who receive our healthcare services. I am referring to our **Very Important Patients** — VIPs. The active-duty soldiers recovering from the tragic helicopter crash; the new moms, dads and babies beginning new lives with new joyous responsibilities; and the retirees and veterans who need our clinical services to improve the quality of their lives are representative of these VIPs.

There is another group of VIPs who are routinely among us. They are the Tripler Ohana. You, the staff are **Very Important Personnel**. Without you the mission is not accomplished, readiness training doesn't get done, and patients aren't seen and treated.

I want to mention just a few of our staff VIPs who recently were acknowledged with additional accolades: Congratulations to **Col. (Dr.) Larry Burgess** who received the



Maj. Gen. Adams

Lewis Aspey Mologne Award at the Teaching Chiefs Conference this past December for his professional, quality work and dedication as our chief, Department of Surgery. Recipients of the Mologne award have exhibited a balance between leadership in military medicine and leadership in academics on a national level.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Braden Shoupe, who was the surprised recipient of the "**Patch Adams of Hawaii**" award from the **Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and City Council of Hawaii** recently. Dr. Shoupe, one of our Pediatric Hematology/Oncology specialist's received the award for his tremendous bedside manner and years of service and commitment to patients with cancer.

Two more VIPs are our two soldiers who were awarded the Soldier's Medal March 5 for their heroism saving six people after a motor vehicle accident including risking their own lives pulling one unconscious, injured man out of a burning car. Congratulations to **Sgt. Peter Amstutz** and **Spc. De'Angelo Allen** of Schofield Barracks Health Clinic! You have my deepest respect for your actions. Your actions are examples of Selfless Service and Courage in addition to your expertise as Soldier Medics.

Capt. Daryl L. Elder was awarded the **Army Nurse Corps Award of Excellence** given annually to one company grade officer earlier this year.

Capt. David A. Condon and **Capt. Donald R. Neff**, two Tripler Army Medical Center junior officers, will receive the **2000 Medical Service Corps Award of Excellence**. The award is scheduled to be presented to the officers this spring in Washington, D.C. during Junior Officer Week.

I hope this column makes you all stop and think about all our VIPs and what they mean to us on a day-to-day basis.

Medical Minute

<http://www.tamc.amedd.army.mil>

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CSM's Handshake of Concern



March "Product Improvement"

"Lights, Camera, JCAHO ..."

Division offers helpful website

John Henry
Quality Services Division

The JCAHO theme for March is Performance Improvement. Several years ago, Tripler adopted the FOCUS PDCA model for performance improvement. The model offers a structured approach to improve existing processes and assist in developing new projects. It can be used in developing both Clinical Pathways and Practice Guidelines, and in performing Root Cause Analysis following Sentinel Events. A downloadable sample and teaching tool for the FOCUS PDCA model, along with an explanation of the acronym, can

be found on the Quality Services Division (QSD) JCAHO web page.

A number of new features have been added to the QSD JCAHO web page to assist all areas in preparing for JCAHO. There are links to the Joint Commission web site, the Tripler intranet version of the Automated JCAHO Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals, a sample of an interview presentation format as well as a downloadable generic version of the format, the most recent Sentinel Event Alert, and the latest entry is the Agenda for the JCAHO Mock Survey to be conducted March 27-29. You might want to check to see if someone is coming to visit!



ISOTOPES: Radioactive substance extends patient's life

Continued from page 1

Working with Shoupe, Durkin began by administering a diagnostic dose of medical isotopes that identified the cancer and showed the staging of the cancer. "The patient's tumor — though it was not suppose to express (absorb) the isotope — did and avidly," Durkin said.

Or in laymen's terms the substance was "attracted" to the cancer. The substance was Indium 111 attached to a neurotransmitter, Durkin said.

"(By a diagnostic dose) I mean we can look at your heart, and see how it's functioning, look at your kidneys, and see how they're functioning," he said. "We can use that to diagnose a disease or a disease state within an organ system. By therapeutic, we are administering the pharmaceutical and want to have an action on the body. An example of that would be a thyroid ablation (non-surgical removal). That's a therapeutic administration we are giving as a therapy to cure a disease or treat a disorder."

"At that point, Oncology took their patient back and tried two courses of chemotherapy — and the disease actually progressed through the chemotherapy — it got worse," he said. "One of our residents — the chief resident at the time — thought, well why don't we try a radioisotope and take this one step further."

Durkin did extensive research on the procedure using the Internet, Medline (a database of articles) and talking with practitioners at institutions such as Yale University and Louisiana State University who were using pharmaceuticals for treatment.

"The catch was they were using (the same pharmaceuticals) for a completely different cancer — neuroblastomas," Durkin said, "at much higher doses. The institutions had protocol studies ongoing."

"When the patient arrived here prior to his treatment we really had to counsel him. We formed a relationship with him. We wanted to let him know 'This may not work, it may make it worse

... worse case it could kill him, best case it could cure him,'" Durkin said, "and anything in-between. The family understood that and we went forward."

Durkin said that after the two courses of chemotherapy and external beam radiation, the patient "couldn't make it from my office 30 meters to the elevator to go up to the room to see where treatment would take place. (The patient) needed a wheelchair.

After receiving the therapy, the young man progressed to the point that he went back to school and actually began to work out again for a few months.

"He began to clinically improve almost to the point of being asymptomatic (presenting no symptoms of disease)," Durkin said. "He could breathe easier and deeper. He wasn't tiring as much and his appetite was better."

Unfortunately, at the beginning of December, the staff did a standard CT Scan to check on tumors and see how the patient was doing and noticed there were new tumors in his lungs.

"The strange part is the original tumor and brain lesion were all getting smaller or less dense or not getting larger. We had checked their progression or maybe even backed them up a little bit but this new stuff was forming," Durkin said. "There are so many different possibilities concerning the new growth."

It was time to stop the treatments. The Oncology physician — Dr. Shoupe — is of the firm opinion "we did extend (the patient's) life... And definitely the quality of his life." Unfortunately, the young man recently died.

Durkin is doing a podium presentation in March at the American Pharmaceutical Association to educate other healthcare providers about this application.

"It's made some people aware there are alternatives out there besides chemicals — mainly chemotherapy. It's an option now. It's brought it a little closer into being something they would go to sooner," Durkin said.

Cardiology Service, P-eIC use Internet to help patients

Frank Prestwood

Pacific Regional Medical Command

Tripler Army Medical Center's Cardiology Service in conjunction with the Pacific e-Health Innovation Center (P-eIC) is conducting a research project, which uses the Internet to facilitate communication between former cardiac patients and their healthcare providers.

The goal of this project is to confirm that materials provided on the Internet can positively change health behaviors and improve cardiac patients' quality of life.

Currently, there are patients with heart disease that participate in a rehabilitation program consisting of supervised exercise, education and behavior changes. While these steps may help reduce the risk of recurrence, some patients revert to prior behaviors, which put them at an increased risk for further problems.

In order to minimize this recurrence and facilitate a more effective means of medical service, an interactive website will be used during the project to disseminate information between patients and their healthcare providers.

The research team believes that presenting educational and motivational projects via the Internet can positively change health behaviors and cardiac risk factors in former rehabilitation patients.

The project began last July and should be completed by October 2001. Patients participating in the project each complete a 12-week testing period. Initially, they must complete a series of questionnaires. During the testing period, patients were then asked to access the website for an hour per week for 12 weeks.

Upon completion of the 12 weeks, the patients complete the questionnaires again, and a statistical comparison will be made between the initial and final data.

Additional information on the project can be found on the Internet at <http://peic.tamc.amedd.army.mil>.

IMD takes steps to protect scarce Internet access

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Editor

With easy, quick access to a wealth of information, it's no surprise that the Internet has become one of the most popular tools for conducting research and daily business.

Over the past few months, Tripler Army Medical Center has been experiencing a high volume of Internet traffic, which often makes the system work very slowly. To ensure those conducting official business can complete their tasks, Tripler's Information Management Division has taken a few steps to help protect Tripler's scarce Internet access.

Using a web nanny, the IMD can control access to unofficial websites and obtain reports on what sites are being accessed by Tripler staff, said Kathryn Auxer, Tripler's Information Systems Security manager.

"The Department of Defense Joint Ethics Regulation says the Internet can be used for minimal personal business provided it is not during duty hours, your work is done and it's not used often," she said. "However, it is mainly for official business, and we found that wasn't always the case."

After reviewing the list of websites accessed by Tripler personnel each day, Auxer said they decided to start blocking some of the popular unofficial categories. Last October, IMD began blocking sports and finance/investment sites during duty

hours, which joined already-banned sexually explicit and gambling websites.

"So far, (blocking these websites) has helped considerably," she said, but added the Internet may still be slow until April when IMD is planning to upgrade the system's capacity.

If Tripler web explorers find themselves unexpectedly staring at a blocked screen, Auxer said there can be exceptions to get to a certain site by calling 433-1791.

However, she said if staff try to find a way around the web nanny themselves, it may be more trouble than its worth.

"We do have the capability to trace something back to a specific computer, and then

find out who was logged in at

the time," she said, which brings her to another important topic — passwords and log-ins.

She said many hospital staff members do not remember to log off of a computer when they're done. Auxer added that what many people don't know is that they can be held responsible if someone else performs illegal operations under their log-in.

Another no-no is allowing other individuals to log-in using your password.

"Someone recently passed on a saying to me ... 'Your password is like your toothbrush: use it often, change it frequently and never share it with anyone else,'" she said. "Your password is you, and audit trails will hold up in court."



Troop Command sets APFT dates

Company B — April 16-20

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Fort Shafter Flats ball field

* 5 to 9 a.m. - Briefings every half hour.

* 7 p.m. — one-time brief

Tuesday and Thursday at Tripler ball field

* 5 to 9 a.m. — Briefings every half hour.

Company C — April 23-27

Monday through Friday at Schofield

Barracks' Watts Field

* 6 a.m. — One-time brief

Company A — April 23-27

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Fort Shafter Flats ball field

* 5 to 8 a.m. - Briefings every half hour.

* 4 p.m. — one-time brief at TAMC ball field

Tuesday and Thursday at TAMC ball field

* 5 to 9 a.m. — Briefings every half hour

Medal: Soldiers pull man from burning car

Continued from page 1

was just sitting there unconscious," he said. "He was burning right then and there so we knew we had get him out of there."

While the fire hissed and popped, Sgt. Amstutz and Allen, both dressed in shorts, t-shirts and sandals, tried to open the doors and break the driver's side window but to no avail.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Dee, a military policeman with Schofield's 58th MP Company was already on site and had managed to partially break out the passenger window. The MP had also attempted to douse the flames with a 10-pound fire extinguisher, which also proved unsuccessful.

The pair of medics knew they were running out of time and had to make a move quick. After breaking out the rest of the window, Sgt. Amstutz held his breath, ran up to the car and dove into the window. Allen followed right behind and held up Amstutz's legs so he could reach further into the vehicle and be pulled out quickly if the car exploded.

"I had my eyes shut so I just started feeling around. I couldn't see or breathe because the smoke was thick and black so I was trying to go as fast as I could," Amstutz said.

Finally, he grabbed onto the man, but the driver wouldn't budge because of the seatbelt.

"It felt like it took 20 minutes to find the seatbelt button. Flames started going onto me burning my arm," he said. "It was pure adrenaline. The seatbelt went click, and we ripped him out of the vehicle."

Allen estimated that they got the man out just minutes before the car became completely engulfed in flames, which would have made the rescue impossible.

After moving away from the burning vehicle, Amstutz returned to help his wife with the injured family while Allen helped the burned man.

"One of the little girls was in bad shape. She was puking and her stomach was rigid and hard," said Amstutz, who knew immediately the girl might have



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Commanding General Maj. Gen. Nancy R. Adams congratulates Sgt. Peter Amstutz and Spc. De'Angelo Allen after presenting them with the Soldier's Medal, the highest peacetime award for heroism.

internal bleeding. "She was what we call surgical urgent — she needed surgery within an hour of the accident."

Although only a little more than 10 minutes had lapsed since their arrival, Amstutz said it felt like forever before the first ambulance arrived on site and a medical evacuation helicopter soon followed to take the little girl and burned man to Queen's Medical Center.

Even after help arrived, the Amstutzes and Allen continued to help until the last patient was transferred and police had taken their statements, which put them on their way at about 2:30 a.m.

It wasn't until then that the three had a chance to reflect on the night's events.

"God was really watching over us because that car didn't explode while Sgt. Amstutz, Staff Sgt. Dee and I were pulling the gentlemen out," said Allen, who would like to become a physician's assistant.

Sgt. Amstutz, also an aspiring PA, realized the danger they had been in as well, but said he would probably do the same thing if he had to do it again.

"I couldn't just sit back and watch someone burn to death," he said.

While she said she knew it was right thing to do, Yvonne said she was furious when she heard of her husband's venture into the burning car.

"Where I was at, I couldn't see what was going on. I was probably the only one angry about what he had done," she said. "But if he had gotten hurt, at least I would have known he was doing what he loved — helping people."

In addition to the Soldier's Medals, the Amstutzes and Allen received commendations from Hawaii Governor Benjamin Cayetano.

Although they said it feels good to be recognized, the three were just happy they could help and glad they came along that road when then did.

"If we were coming down that road 10 minutes later or earlier, things may have turned out different. We were just in the right place at the right time," Allen said. "If that were to ever happen to us, we just hope someone out there would do the same."

Leading the way ... SAMC inducts first member

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan
Editor

Leading the way not only for her own soldiers, but the entire Pacific Regional Medical Command (PRMC) as well, a Military Personnel Division soldier became the first soldier to be inducted into the PRMC Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) Feb. 22.

Even though the PRMC SAMC was organized in 1999, Sgt. 1st Class Monique Washington, NCOIC of the Enlisted Management Branch, was the first soldier to pass the grueling selection process to receive the club's token medallion and membership.

"It is truly an honor to get inducted into a prestigious club like this," said Washington, who spent more than three months studying in preparation for the selection boards. "It definitely was a challenge, but I would do it all over again."

Although Washington was the first soldier inducted at PRMC, the command's club currently has seven other members, who received their initial SAMC induction at previous commands. Once inducted, a SAMC member retains their membership throughout their career.

Named after Audie Leon Murphy, a

Medal of Honor recipient and the most decorated soldier in World War II, the club recognizes NCOs who have demonstrated performance and inherent leadership qualities characterized by its namesake, according to the U.S. Army Medical Command SAMC guidance.

In order to be inducted into the club, soldiers in the rank of corporal through sergeant first class must pass a series of oral boards. The first board is conducted at Troop Command and is normally composed of current SAMC members.

"They really drilled me," Washington said of her two-hour board appearance. "It was very intense and both physically and mentally draining."

She explained that unlike most boards, the SAMC boards use scenario-based questions where answers can sometimes take more than five minutes to answer.

"You have to put yourself in the leader's position and explain what steps you would take in certain situations," said Washington.

After surviving the first board, she then went before the final board, which is composed of sergeants major from throughout the PRMC. In order to be selected for induction, the board vote must be unanimous.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Sgt. 1st Class Monique Washington was inducted into the SAMC by U.S. Medical Command Command Sgt. Maj. James Aplin Feb. 22 during the NCO Conference.

"I was just relieved," said Washington of learning that she had been selected. "It was a lot of work, but I'm a better soldier for it."

Although her studying days are over, the 12-year Army veteran said she will now encourage her soldiers to go after the distinction.

"That's why I'm there ... to lead the way and set the example."

the winners' circle

Re-enlistments

Sgt. 1st Class James Jansen
Spc. Kisha Johnson
Staff Sgt. Mark Nace
Sgt. Anthony Henderson
Spc. Carum Rogers Jr.
Sgt. Cedric Carr
Staff Sgt. Karl Hall
Staff Sgt. Udorn Williamson
Staff Sgt. Wesley Scott
Sgt. Scott Strack
Sgt. 1st Class John Matoy
Sgt. Edwin Duhon
Staff Sgt. Theodore Plemons
Spc. Rodmond Churchill
Sgt. Woody Hembree
Spc. Larry Chaney
Spc. Laquita Fuller

Awards

Teresita Kepaa - 35-year service pin

Teri Thomson - 15-year service pin
Teresa Brown - 10-year service pin
Maj. Dimitry Fomin - Meritorious Service Medal
Capt. Franklin Kang - MSM
Capt. John Stitch - MSM
Staff Sgt. Martin Sweatt - MSM
Sgt. Stephan Robbins - MSM
EMT-B Bridge Course graduates

Sgt. 1st Class Jean Powell
Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Boocks
Sgt. 1st Class Arlo Ellingson
Sgt. Sonja Cullen
Sgt. Paul Little
Sgt. Jason Garza
Beret Flash Contest winner
Sgt. Christopher Hunter

Tripler runners take third during Perimeter Run

TAMC Public Affairs Office

A team of seven Tripler Army Medical Center staff members took third place out of 114 teams in the men's open division of the 30th annual Perimeter Run Feb. 10-11.

The 134-mile event took runners around the entire island of Oahu.

The team members were: **Capt. Joseph Lee, Internal Medicine; Capt. David Heppner, Int. Med.; Capt. Jeff Van den Broek, Int. Med.; Dr. John Marshall, Int. Med.; Capt. Troy Denunzio, Nephrology; Master Sgt. Ronald Dean, Inspector General; and Capt. Brett Herzog, Radiology.**

MINISTRY MOMENT

DMPC sets Easter services, bids farewell to candidate

Chaplain (Capt.) Albert Ghergich
Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care

Easter Services

The Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care will hold the following service in observance of Easter.
Catholic: Holy Saturday (April 14) — 5 p.m.; Easter Sunday (April 15) — 11 a.m.
Protestant: Easter Sunday — 9 a.m. Also note: Palm Sunday is April 8, and Good Friday is April 13.

Congratulations

Please join the DMPC in offering a hearty congratulations to Patricia Font on her promotion to sergeant. Sgt. Font was promoted upon completion of PLDC on March 7.

Farewell

The DMPC bid farewell to 1st Lt. Seth George March 5. A special luncheon was held in his honor. Chaplain (Col.) James Coindreau and Chaplain (Maj.) J. Gregg Hickman presented him with plaques from the Department of Ministry. SSG Blache presented a special plaque on behalf of the Chaplain Assistants.

George, an Army Reserve Chaplain Candidate, served at TAMC from May 15, 2000 until March 5. During that time, George provided religious support to nearly every area of TAMC. His warm smile and eagerness to serve will be truly missed. Completing this part of his active-duty training, George will return to Sangre de Cristo Seminary in Colorado where he teaches New

Testament Greek. Our thoughts and prayers are with him as he completes the ordination process within the Presbyterian Church. Afterwards, hopefully, he will be quickly accessed onto active duty as a Chaplain.

The Chaplain Candidate program exists to allow people to explore the Army Chaplaincy while they are in seminary or fulfilling ordination requirements. If you know anyone interested in the program — please give us a call at 433-5727.

Attention staff and patients

Check out the Daily Protestant Devotions, noon-12:15 p.m.; and the Thursday Bible Study, 4-4:30 p.m., both in the Meditation Chapel, wing 6A.

P-eIC receives Pono Technology Award

Susan Onuma
Pacific e-Health Innovation Center

Imark Communications recently presented its Pono Technology Award to the Pacific e-Health Innovation Center (P-eIC) at Tripler Army Medical Center.

Pono is Hawaiian for “righteousness” or “good.”

The award is given to organizations that demonstrate leadership and serve as an example of the real-world risks, challenges, benefits and realizations to “doing it right.” The organization may also motivate other organizations in the state of Hawaii to follow their lead and initiate similar projects.

The P-eIC as a whole, has crafted a new technology concept of research and demonstration/validation in association with a live-test environment (Tripler Army Medical Center, Makalapa, Hickam Air Force Base, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Pacific Island beneficiaries, Department of Defense, Asia health-care facilities, etc.) that is without peer in the public and private sectors.

Peter Kay, the Pono Technology Award Event Chair said, “This award, in its first year, recognizes the achievements of Hawaii-based organizations that have demonstrated leadership

and have overcome significant barriers and challenges in implementing technology solutions.”

P-eIC was selected as the Pono Technology Award winner in the “Government” category, narrowly besting tough competitors such as the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation’s Telemedicine Network, the Kauai County Housing Agency, and the Honolulu City and County Employees Federal Credit Union. Other categories included Education, Large Enterprise, Small Business, and Non-Profit.

The award was presented at a special recognition banquet during the recent Hawaii High Technology Showcase held at the Hawaii Convention Center.

“We are extremely proud of the work we have done here at Tripler Army Medical Center, and it is gratifying to know that others recognize the value and importance of this research and demonstration of outcomes,” said Col. Rosemary Nelson, chief information officer and program manager of the P-eIC. “I feel that it is the leadership at Tripler, which continues to challenge the status quo and the culture here. Major General Nancy R. Adams, the Commanding General of Tripler, has cultivated and embraced the innovation that is found at P-eIC, and in fact, constantly encourages us to think ‘outside the box.’”

For more information on the P-eIC, call 433-3600 or visit <http://peic.tamc.amedd.army.mil>.





Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Fun Run

Lt. Col. John Shero, deputy commander of Administration for the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic, and his daughter, Alex, jog to the finish line of the Army Nurse Corps Anniversary Fun Run/ Walk Feb. 18 at Hickam Air Force Base.

More than 80 community members turned out for the 3.1-mile event.

The distinguished runners were:

1st male — Jorge Flores, 22:45

1st female — Col. Stephanie Marshall, 28:07

1st ANC member — Capt. Erik Vincent, 23:03

Youngest participant — Jose Sierra (6 years old), 47:28

Oldest participant — Marilyn Kopp (72 years old), 55:24

news briefs

Website offers special needs info

— If a military family needs to know if their next duty station can accommodate their child's special needs, a new website may help.

The Department of Defense's Special Needs Network, a web site for military families with special medical or educational needs, went on line Jan. 24. Check out the site at www.mfrc.calib.com/snn.

Va encourages servicemembers to file early claims

— Servicemembers who incurred residual injuries as a result of military service are encouraged to file early Veteran's Affairs disability claims.

Servicemembers separating within 60 to 120 days must submit a VA Form 21-526 with a copy of their military medical records. They must also be available for any necessary VA medical exam prior to departing Hawaii and provide the VA with a copy of their final DD Form 214 (Report of Separation).

For more information or to see if you are eligible, call 433-1000 or (800) 827-1000.

SGLI coverage to increase — The maximum coverage for Servicemembers Group Life Insurance coverage will auto-

matically increase from \$200,000 to \$250,000 April 1. Premiums for this coverage would also automatically increase from \$16 to \$20.

In order to stop the increase, servicemembers must make an appointment with the Military Personnel Division to have their SGLI changed between April 1-30. Any requests for reduced or no coverage during this time frame will result in a refund of any over-collection of the premium for the month of April.

For more information, call 433-9183 or 433-9168.

Soldiers can access pay records on-line

— All active-duty servicemembers will soon be able to access their pay records via the Internet with passwords issued by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). Currently, on-line access allows servicemembers to change federal tax withholdings and direct deposit accounts for their monthly pay. It will also allow changes to allotments and mailing addresses.

The pay system is available at www.dfas.mil then click on E/MSS. Access to payroll accounts is also available at (877) 363-3677.

Soldiers should read the information

sheets which accompany their password/access codes, and ensure changes are made correctly. Errors could pose financial hardship when corrections are not made in time (i.e. allotments started too soon, allotment amount is wrong).

For more information, call the MPD at 433- 6014.

P-eIC prototype gets accepted

— The Pacific e-Health Innovation Center's Theater Telemedicine Prototyping Project (T2P2) attained full government acceptance Feb. 14.

Through the use of personal computers and the Internet, T2P2 extends healthcare consultation specialty expertise from Tripler Army Medical Center to remote clinics (in this case, the Troop Medical Clinic at Schofield Barracks), which improves the quality of life for soldiers and their families with improved access to quality sub-specialty care.

The technology moves information about a patient's health problem to TAMC, via secure networks, instead of the soldiers and family members having to physically travel to TAMC for services.

For more information about the T2P2 project, call 433-3600 or visit <http://peic.tamc.amedd.army.mil>.